

App. Ser. No.: 09/440,260
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REMARKS

In the Final Office Action mailed on June 15, 2005 the Examiner rejected claims 37-40 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,202,088 to Corrigan et al.; rejected claims 1-2, 7-13, 16-24, 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,574,495 to Caporizzo in view of Corrigan; rejected claims 4, 5 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Caporizzo and Corrigan in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,463,588 to Jenkins et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,425,132 to Chappell; rejected claims 6 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Caporizzo and Corrigan in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,563,833 to Cheng; rejected claims 25, 28-30 and 34-36 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Caporizzo and Corrigan in view of an article by Henderson; rejected claims 31 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Caporizzo, Corrigan and Henderson in view of Jenkins and Chappell; rejected claim 33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Caporizzo, Corrigan and Henderson in view of Cheng; rejected claim 41 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Corrigan in view of Caporizzo; and rejected claims 42 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Corrigan.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 4, 8, 10, 11, 14, 17, 19, 20, 23, 25 and 27 and cancelled claims 2, 6-7, 12, 15-16, 21, 26 and 28-43. No new matter has been added.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 11 and 20 to include the request for registration message being transmitted without a request message being sent first from the system controller. This feature was previously presented in now cancelled claims 7, 16 and 34. In previously rejecting claims 7, 16 and 34, the Examiner relied upon col. 5,

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lines 4-11 from Caporizzo as teaching this feature. However, the passage cited by the Examiner relates to a process for accumulating bit error data and is not related to a process for registering set-top terminals with the system controller. Thus, the only data Caporizzo can transmit from the set-top terminal to the headend is bit error rate data and not a registration request message.

Corrigan does not make up for this deficiency in Caporizzo. While Corrigan does describe a process for initializing a subscriber unit in col. 7, lines 5-16, this process is initiated by the control unit. In contrast, the processes, and corresponding apparatus, presently claimed are initiated by the set-top terminal and not the system controller.

Finally, there is no motivation to combine the systems and methods of Caporizzo and Corrigan. As noted earlier, Caporizzo addresses bit error rate data. Corrigan describes an initialization process for a subscriber unit. These patents are addressing different problems and would not be combinable by one or ordinary skill in the art.

In rejecting claims 10 and 19, the Examiner asserts that the telephone network alluded to in Caporizzo is an upstream plant and cites to column 5, lines 43-48. Applicant respectfully disagrees. What column 5, lines 43-48 describe is a system through which a set-top terminal may circumvent the cable network by using the PSTN to transmit the bit error rate data to the headend. A cable upstream plant is not the same thing as a piece of the PSTN.

In rejecting claim 25, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to modify the teachings of Caporizzo to include purchasing the set-top terminal at a retail outlet. Applicant respectfully disagrees. As pointed out earlier, Caporizzo is focused on collecting bit error rate data. These errors can come from a plurality of sources as

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outlined by Caporizzo in column 3, lines 13-32. How the set-top terminal got into the network (i.e., via a purchase from a retail outlet) is immaterial as to how the terminal is performing so as to reduce bit error rates.

Any claims not specifically mentioned above are allowable due to their dependency on allowable base claim.

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CONCLUSION

The appropriate RCE fees have been included in a separate sheet. However, the Office is authorized to charge any additional fees or underpayments of fees (including fees for petitions for extensions of time) under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17 to account number 502117. Any overpayments should be credited to the same account.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application, withdrawal of the rejections made in the last Office Action and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance. The Applicant's representative can be reached at the below telephone number if the Examiner has any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Jost et al.

Benjamin D. Driscoll
Benjamin D. Driscoll
Reg. No. 41,571
Motorola, Inc.
101 Tournament Drive
Horsham, PA 19044
P (215) 323-1840
F (215) 323-1300

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Date